<u>Trend Study 19B-18-02</u>

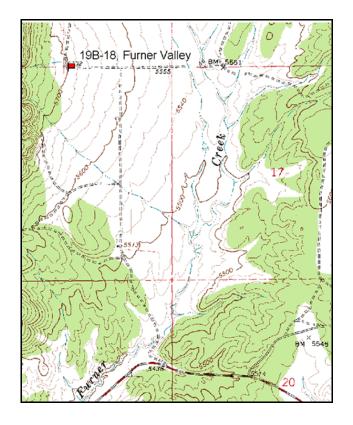
Study site name: Furner Valley. Vegetation type: Big Sagebrush-Grass.

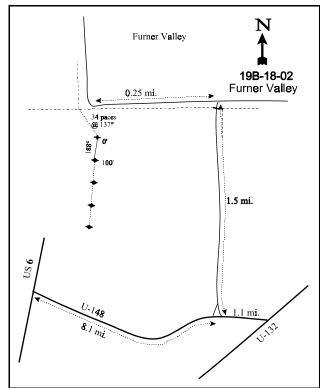
Compass bearing: frequency baseline 188 degrees magnetic.

Frequency belt placement: line 1 (11 & 95ft), line 2 (34ft), line 3 (59ft), line 4 (71ft). Rebar: belt 1 on 1ft and belt 4 on 1ft.

LOCATION DESCRIPTION

From a point on Highway U-148, located 8.1 miles east of the junction of Highway U-148 and U.S. 6, proceed north on the dirt road to Furner Valley for 1.50 miles. At this point, there is a "T" intersection with cropland immediately to the north. Turn left (west) for 0.25 miles, to where the road turns north again at a right angle. Stop! From the corner of the fence, walk 34 paces at an azimuth of 137 degrees M to the 0-foot marker of the frequency baseline, a green steel fencepost 15 inches high with a red browse tag, number 3936, attached.





Map Name: Furner Ridge

Township 13S, Range 2W, Section 18

Diagrammatic Sketch

GPS: NAD 27, UTM 12S 4393400 N 406634 E

DISCUSSION

Furner Valley - Trend Study No. 19B-18

The Furner Valley trend study samples deer winter range on the west side of Furner Valley. The study area has a gentle slope to the east at an elevation of 5,700 feet. The range type is mountain big sagebrush-grass with antelope bitterbrush as a sub-dominant shrub. Immediately west of the study site is a mature stand of juniper-pinyon which provides escape and thermal cover. Deer use has been moderate to heavy in the past, and there is evidence of cattle and sheep use as well. It was observed in 1989 under dry conditions, that cattle had already (July 20th) made considerable use of the bitterbrush's current years growth. The area is in close proximity to a large dryland farm which may attract deer in the spring. A pellet group transect read on site in 2002 estimated 36 deer days use/acre (89 ddu/ha). Remnants of old cattle, horse, and sheep droppings were also sampled in 2002.

The soil is light in color with rock and pavement scattered across the soil surface and throughout the profile. Soil textural and chemical analysis indicates a sandy clay loam with a neutral pH (7.1). The effective rooting depth is almost 11 inches with a temperature of 67°F measured at about 14 inches. A moderate amount of bare soil is exposed, but erosion is light because of the nearly level terrain. Vegetation and litter are abundant and adequately protect the surface. The erosion condition class was determined as stable in 2002.

Mountain big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush comprise the key browse species. Together they account for nearly 80% of the browse cover, or 40% of the total vegetation cover on the site. The mountain big sagebrush population numbered about 2,000 plants/acre with a moderately abundant young age class in 1997 and 2002. Vigor was poor and decadence high in 1983 and 1989, but both have improved greatly. Utilization was moderate to heavy during the initial reading in 1983, but has been mostly light since. The proportion of the decadent age class classified as dying was high in 1997. It was reported that the density may decline in the future. The population density did slightly decline in 2002 with an increase in the number of dead plants, but due to an increasing number of young plants in 2002, the density appears to be stabilizing. Annual leader growth on sagebrush averaged 2.6 inches in 2002. Antelope bitterbrush numbers over 500 plants/acre on the site. This population is highly mature with low recruitment in all years. Even with moderate to heavy use, bitterbrush vigor has been normal in all years and decadence low. Annual leader growth averaged 1.4 inches in 2002, although this measurement was determined in May so additional growth was likely.

Broom snakeweed increased in density in 1997 to 5,000 plants/acre, declining somewhat in 2002. This is a mostly mature population, but may have the ability to increase with suitable climatic conditions. Broom snakeweed density can fluctuate dramatically depending upon the amount and timing of precipitation. Stickyleaf low rabbitbrush and pricklypear cactus were encountered on the site but in very low abundance. Point-center quarter data estimates juniper density at 35 trees/acre.

Perennial grasses are common in the understory and provide about one-third of the total vegetative cover on the site. Needle-and-thread grass is the most abundant species with bottlebrush squirreltail, Sandberg bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Indian ricegrass being present but in much lower densities. With drought in 2002, the sum of nested frequency value for perennial grasses remained nearly stable. Individual species changes include a significant decline in squirreltail, but slight increases in needle-and-thread, Sandberg bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Indian ricegrass. Cheatgrass slightly increased on the site as well. Slight increases in both the nested and quadrat frequencies of cheatgrass occurred in 2002 even with drought. In 1997, cheatgrass was dense in localized patches.

The diversity and composition of the forb component is moderate, but plants are very scattered in their distribution. Perennial forbs declined in sum of nested frequency in 2002 with drought. The most abundant perennials include Torrey milkvetch, longleaf phlox, and Lewis flax. Pale alyssum, an annual, has the highest nested frequency of any single species. It provided 87% of the forb cover in 2002.

1983 APPARENT TREND ASSESSMENT

Soil trend appears stable due to the gentle terrain. Perennial cover is lacking and soils are potentially erodible. Litter cover comes primarily from dead cheatgrass. The browse trend appears downward because of poor condition within the mountain big sagebrush stand. In addition, other shrubs and grasses do not appear to be filling the gaps left by dead sagebrush. The site is capable of supporting a much better bitterbrush population.

1989 TREND ASSESSMENT

The soil trend is slightly improved, but still poor. Percent bare ground cover is still high, although it is lower than estimated in 1983. Percent pavement cover has increased greatly indicating erosion has occurred. The browse trend is slightly downward. Both mountain big sagebrush and antelope bitterbrush show increased decadence since 1983 due most likely to the current drought. The decadence rate in sagebrush is currently extremely high at 75%. Over half of the sagebrush population displays poor vigor as well. The herbaceous understory trend is slightly upward with an increase in the sum of nested frequency of perennial grasses and forbs.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - slightly up (4) browse - down (2) herbaceous understory - slightly up (4)

1997 TREND ASSESSMENT

The soil trend is stable with only slight erosion apparent. Percent bare ground is similar to that of 1989 and cover of pavement has declined. The browse trend is slightly downward. Decadence and poor vigor in the mountain big sagebrush population have improved; however, the proportion of decadent plants that are classified as dying is increasing. It is likely that a further die-off (about 15%) of sagebrush may occur in the future. Antelope bitterbrush percent decadency has improved. The herbaceous understory trend is stable. The perennial herbaceous understory sum of nested frequency is only slightly lower than that reported in 1989.

TREND ASSESSMENT

soil - stable (3) browse - slightly down (2) herbaceous understory - stable (3)

2002 TREND ASSESSMENT

The soil trend is stable. Bare ground continues to decline, and important protective cover provided by the perennial grass component slightly increased. Litter cover declined in 2002, but the erosion condition class was stable. Trend for browse is stable. As was reported in 1997, the density of mountain big sagebrush did slightly decline. However, young plants are abundant (24% of the population) in 2002, and the proportion of the decadent age class classified as dying is declining. It appears that the population is stabilizing. Decadence remained at about the same level as reported in 1997, and vigor improved. Bitterbrush remains at a stable density, decadence is low, vigor good, and use mostly moderate. Trend for the herbaceous understory is slightly down in 2002 with a decline in sum of nested frequency for perennial species, primarily forbs.

TREND ASSESSMENT

<u>soil</u> - stable (3)<u>browse</u> - stable (3)<u>herbaceous understory</u> - slightly down (2)

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18	1									·
T Species y	Nested	Quadra	ıt Frequ	Average Cover %						
p									COVCI	
e	'83	'89	'97	'02	'83	'89	'97	'02	'97	'02
G Agropyron cristatum	-	=	2	1	-	-	2	1	.15	.03
G Agropyron smithii	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	3	-	.04
G Agropyron spicatum	_{ab} 10	_{ab} 12	_a 4	_b 19	4	5	2	7	.06	1.00
G Bromus japonicus (a)	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-	.01
G Bromus tectorum (a)	-	-	219	241	-	-	69	81	5.28	2.36
G Oryzopsis hymenoides	_{ab} 40	_b 58	_a 20	_{ab} 38	20	27	10	18	.82	1.77
G Poa fendleriana	-	2	ı	-	-	1	-	ı	ı	-
G Poa pratensis	3	4	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-
G Poa secunda	_a 7	_a 6	_b 37	_a 41	3	3	17	17	.47	1.11
G Sitanion hystrix	_c 107	_b 70	_{bc} 82	_a 25	48	31	38	13	1.28	.49
G Sporobolus cryptandrus	-	1	4	2	-	-	1	1	.15	.00
G Stipa comata	_a 111	_b 178	_{ab} 172	_b 180	47	71	69	70	5.96	9.34
G Unknown grass - perennial	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	.15	-
Total for Annual Grasses	0	0	219	245	0	0	69	83	5.28	2.37
Total for Perennial Grasses	278	330	324	314	123	140	140	130	9.06	13.80
Total for Grasses	278	330	543	559	123	140	209	213	14.34	16.18
F Alyssum alyssoides (a)	-	-	_a 305	_b 333	-	-	93	95	2.28	5.83
F Antennaria rosea	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	.00	-
F Arabis spp.	5	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
F Astragalus calycosus	_a 5	_{ab} 13	_e 30	_{bc} 23	3	8	17	11	.40	.30
F Astragalus spp.	_	-	7	4	-	1	3	2	.09	.03
F Caulanthus crassicaulis	_b 34	_b 20	a ⁻	a ⁻	15	10	-	-	-	-
F Carduus nutans (a)	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	.00	-
F Calochortus nuttallii	6	1	3	3	3	-	2	1	.04	.00
F Castilleja spp.	a-	a-	e_{d}	_a 1	-	-	4	1	.17	.03
F Chaenactis douglasii	2	4	10	-	1	3	4	-	.04	-
F Crepis acuminata	_	-	2	-	-	1	1	1	.03	-
F Ipomopsis aggregata	2		_		2		_			
F Lithospermum incisum	11	8	1	2	6	5	1	1	.01	.00
F Linum lewisii	_b 33	_b 52	_b 31	_a 3	19	25	15	2	.16	.04
F Lygodesmia grandiflora	5	8	_	8	3	4	_	3	-	.04
F Machaeranthera canescens	_	1	-	_	-	1	_	-	_	_
F Oenothera spp.	1	5	6	3	1	2	2	1	.01	.03
F Phlox austromontana	_a 3	_b 19	_a 6	_a 6	2	9	3	3	.19	.18
F Phlox longifolia	_a 10	_b 36	_{ab} 36	_{ab} 25	4	18	16	12	.13	.10
F Senecio multilobatus	_a 4	_a 16	_b 44	_a 1	3	9	22	1	.39	.00
F Sphaeralcea coccinea	_	-	-	3		-	_	1	-	.00

T y p	Species	Nested	Freque	ncy		Quadra	ıt Frequ	ency		Average Cover %	
e		'83	'89	'97	'02	'83	'89	'97	'02	'97	'02
F Streptanthus cordatus		a ⁻	_b 13	_b 14	ab 1	-	6	7	1	.11	.00
F	F Tragopogon dubius		7	7	6	9	3	4	4	.09	.05
F	Unknown forb-perennial	-	3	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
F	Zigadenus paniculatus	a_	_b 21	_a 3	_a 2	-	13	1	2	.00	.01
Т	Total for Annual Forbs		0	307	333	0	0	94	95	2.29	5.83
Total for Perennial Forbs		138	226	211	91	74	117	103	46	1.89	0.85
Total for Forbs		138	226	518	424	74	117	197	141	4.18	6.69

Values with different subscript letters are significantly different at alpha = 0.10

BROWSE TRENDS --

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

T y p	Species	Strip Freque	ncy	Average Cover %		
e		'97	'02	'97	'02	
В	Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	66	60	11.05	9.38	
В	Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus viscidiflorus	1	2	-	-	
В	Gutierrezia sarothrae	59	55	1.29	.96	
В	Juniperus osteosperma	4	5	2.74	4.59	
В	Leptodactylon pungens	0	1	-	.00	
В	Opuntia spp.	1	1	.00	.03	
В	Purshia tridentata	25	23	4.83	8.89	
To	otal for Browse	156	147	19.93	23.88	

CANOPY COVER ---

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

Species	Percen Cover	t
	'97	'02
Juniperus osteosperma	-	2

Key Browse Annual Leader Growth

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

Species	Average leader growth (in)
Artemisia tridentata vaseyana	2.6
Purshia tridentata	1.4

1418

Point-Quarter Tree Data Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

Species	Trees p	per
	'97	'02
Juniperus osteosperma	29	35

Averaş diamet	
'97	'02
4.3	3.4

BASIC COVER ---

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

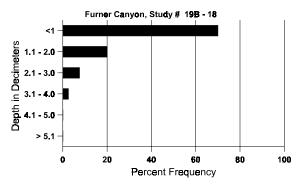
Cover Type	Nested Frequency		Average	Cover %	1	
	'97	'02	'83	'89	'97	'02
Vegetation	354	373	2.00	7.25	34.52	46.75
Rock	121	129	1.75	1.50	1.52	2.01
Pavement	267	259	1.00	20.50	8.73	7.61
Litter	379	380	52.25	41.25	40.31	36.43
Cryptogams	79	186	0	3.75	1.25	11.40
Bare Ground	266	249	43.00	25.75	22.77	20.70

SOIL ANALYSIS DATA --

Herd Unit 19B, Study no: 18, Furner Valley

Effective rooting depth (in)	Temp °F (depth)	рН	%sand	%silt	%clay	%0M	PPM P	PPM K	dS/m
10.7	66.8 (13.8)	7.1	54.4	23.1	22.6	2.4	10.5	160.0	0.6

Stoniness Index



PELLET GROUP FREQUENCY --

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

Туре	Quadrat Frequency				
	'97	'02			
Sheep	2	2			
Rabbit	12	21			
Horse	-	2			
Elk	1	-			
Deer	11	12			
Cattle	2	2			

Pellet Transect										
Pellet Groups per Acre	Days Use per Acre (ha)									
02	02									
52	4 (10)									
78	N/A									
-	-									
470	36 (89)									
70	6 (14)									

Herd unit 19B, Study no: 18

-		nıt 19B,								1		.1			DI .	Average	I
	Y	Form C	lass (1	No. of	Plants)					Vigor C	lass			Plants	Total	
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	89	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	333		10
	97	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	60		3
	02	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	120		ϵ
Y	83	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	100		3
	89	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	100		3
	97	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	340		17
	02	23	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	480		24
	83	2	20	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	1366		31 41
	89	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	3	-	533		28 16
	97	44	5	-	10	-	-	1	-	-	52	-	7	1	1200		8 60
	02	37	8	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	2	-	1000	31 4	3 50
D		-	12	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	5	-	1333		40
	89	46	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	28	9	1933		58
	97	20	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	1	16	560		28
\vdash	02	17	5	-	2	1	-	-	-		17	-	-	8	500		25
	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		(
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Н	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	780		39
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		'89 '97		219 109			00% 00%			52' 24'						-18% - 6%	
		'02		149			04%			10					•	- 0 / 0	
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		197		009			00%			00					-	+50%	
		'02		009			00%			00'						13070	
							,										
То	tal I	Plants/A	ere (ex	cludir	ng Dea	d & S	eedlin	gs)					'83		0	Dec:	-
													'89		0		-
													'9'		20		-
													'02	2	40		-

A	Y R	Form Cl	ass (N	o. of	Plants)					Vigor Cl	lass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
E	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	Ht. Cr.		
G	utier	rezia saro	othrae															
S	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	89	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	66			2 2 0
	97 02	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	40			2
H		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-		
Y	83 89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	89 97	3 54	-	-	2 7	-	-	-	-	-	5 61	-	-	-	166 1220			5 61
	02	5	-	_	-	-	-	_	_	-	5	-	_	-	100			5
Μ	83	15	2	2	_	_	_	_	_	-	10	_	9	_	633	7	6	19
	89	37	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	1266		8	38
	97	183	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	189	-	-	-	3780		10	189
	02	152	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	160	-	-	-	3200	7	10	160
D	83	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	66			2
	89	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	133			4
	97 02	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	- 17	0 520			0 26
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		'89		00%			00%			02						+69%		
		'97		00%			00%			00					-	-24%		
		'02		00%	0		00%	0		09	770							
Т	otal I	Plants/Ac	re (exc	cludin	ıg Dea	d & S	eedlin	gs)					'8	3	699	Dec		9%
			`		_			_ /					'8	9	1565			8%
													'9'		5000			0%
													'0	2	3820			14%

G R		roiii Ci	ass (N	o. of F	lants))				Vigor C	lass			Plants	Average	Total				
Е	-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	Per Acre	(inches) Ht. Cr.				
Juni	per	us osteos	sperm	a																
S 83		=	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	=	-	-	-	0		0			
89		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		0			
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02	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20		1			
Y 83		1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	33		1			
89 9'		1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	-	-	-	33 20		1 1			
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02	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	-	100		5			
% P	lan	ts Showi	ng	Mod	derate	Use	Hea	ıvy Us	se_	Po	Poor Vigor %Change									
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		'89		00%			00%			00					+59%					
		'97			00% 00%						00% +20%									
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Tota	ıl P	lants/Ac	re (ev	chidin	σ Dea	d & Se	edlin	ae)					'83		33	Dec:	_			
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9'		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		0			
02	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20	9 16	1			
% P	lan	ts Showi	ng		derate	Use		ıvy Us	<u>se</u>		Poor Vigor %Change									
		'83		00%			00%			00										
		'89		00%			00%			00										
		'97		00%			00%			00										
		'02		00%	ó		00%	ó		00	%									
Total Plants/Acre (excluding Dead & Seedlings) '83 0 Dec													Dec:	_						
Total Flants/Acie (excluding Dead & Securings)													'89		0	DCC.	_]			
													'97		0		_ [
													'02		20		_]			

A G	Y R	Form Class (No. of Plants)									Vigor C	lass			Plants Per Acre	Average (inches)		Total
E		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4		Ht. Cr.		
О	punt	ia spp.														•		
Μ	83	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	-	_	_	_	0	_	_	0
	89	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	0	_	-	0
	97	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20	3	3	1
	02	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20	5	7	1
%	Plai	nts Shov	ving	Mo	derate	Use	Hea	avy Us	se	Po	or Vigor	•			(%Change		
		'8	3	00%			00%			00)%	_			_			
		'8		00%			00%				0%							
		'9'		00%			00%) %				-	+ 0%		
		'0	2	00%	o		00%	6		00	0%							
Т	otal 1	Plants/A	cre (ex	cludin	g Dea	d & S	eedlin	gg)					'83		0	Dec:		_
1	Juli	Turits/1	1010 (02)	cruam	5 Dea	u w b	ccann	<i>53)</i>					'89		0	Dec.		_
													'97		20			_
													'02		20			_
Pı	ırshi	a triden	tata															
Y	83	1	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	1	_	-	_	33			1
	89	-	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	33			1
	97	1	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	1	_	_	_	20			1
	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
Μ	83	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	366	29	42	11
	89	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	166		37	5
	97	6	11	5	-	3	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	500		58	25
	02	5	11	4	-	2	-	2	-	-	24	-	-	-	480	46	81	24
D	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	89	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	100			3
	97	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	60			3
	02	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	40			2
X	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0			0
	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40			2
	02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80			4
%	Plai	nts Shov	_		derate	Use		avy Us	<u>se</u>		Poor Vigor %Change							
	'83 50%						00%				00%					-25%		
'89 67% '97 59%						22%)%		+48%						
						17%				%				-	-10%			
		'0	2	58%	o o		15%	o o		04	1%							
$ _{\mathrm{T}}$	otal 1	Plants/A	cre (ex	cludin	g Dea	d & S	eedlin	gs)					'83		399	Dec:		0%
1			(•2)		<i>ال</i> اح ل			<i>U~)</i>					'89		299			33%
													'97		580			10%
													'02		520			8%